

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/PRCM:PGSMITH:MHS

APPROVED BY EA:WHGLEYSTEN, JR.

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H:SGOLDBERG (DRAFT)

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TO USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 146699

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, CH, US

SUBJECT: SCHEDULING OF CONGRESSIONAL TRAVEL TO PRC

1. YOU WILL RECALL THAT DURING SECRETARY'S NOVEMBER, 1974 VISIT CHINESE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO RECEIVE A 15-PERSON OFFICIAL CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION DURING 1975. DISCUSSIONS WITH PRCLO SINCE THEN HAVE BEEN IN TERMS OF A JULY VISIT.

2. RECENTLY, HOWEVER, WE LEARNED THAT THE CHINESE HAVE ALSO INVITED A PRIVATELY-FORMED CONGRESSIONAL GROUP, LED BY SENATORS PERCY AND JAVITS, TO VISIT DURING THE MONTH-LONG AUGUST RECESS. (FULL COMPOSITION NOT YET FIRM, BUT MCCLOSKEY AND CHURCH HAVE BEEN MENTIONED AS POSSIBILITIES.)

3. ON JUNE 20, GLEYSTEN CALLED IN CH'EN TA-YUNG TO DISCUSS SCHEDULING OF THE TWO GROUPS. HE EXPLAINED THAT WE
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HAVE PREPARED TENTATIVE LIST OF CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS

FOR THE AGREED FORMAL VISIT, AND IT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THE PRESIDENT JUNE 19. GLEYSTEN SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT FELT HE COULD NOT SPARE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS FROM THEIR DUTIES DURING THE JULY LEGISLATIVE RUSH. ACCORDINGLY, THE PRESIDENT HAD REQUESTED THAT WE ASK THE PRC IF IT WOULD AGREE TO HAVING THE PERCY/JAVITS GROUP BEGIN ITS VISIT IN JULY, WITH THE OFFICIAL CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION MAKING ITS

VISIT DURING THE AUGUST RECESS.

4. GLEYSTEN NOTED THAT THE PERCY/JAVITS GROUP IS NOT UNDER THE SAME TIMING CONSTRAINT AS CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS. IF THEY COULD START BEFORE THE END OF THE SESSION, THEN THERE WOULD STILL BE TIME IN AUGUST FOR A TWO-WEEK VISIT BY THE OFFICIAL DELEGATION EVEN IF THE PERCY/JAVITS VISIT EXTENDED INTO AUGUST.

5. GLEYSTEN EXPLAINED THAT WE HAVE NOT YET ISSUED INVITATIONS FOR THE FORMAL DELEGATION, HENCE TIME IS SHORT. HE ASKED THAT CH'EN REFER THE MATTER TO PEKING FOR A DECISION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

6. CH'EN RESPONDED THAT THE PRC SIDE HAD BEEN GOING ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE DELEGATION WOULD GO IN JULY. PERCY/JAVITS HAD ASKED FOR AUGUST, AND THERE HAD NOT APPEARED TO BE ANY CONFLICT. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER, HE SAID, TO DISCUSS CHANGES IN TIMING EARLIER. NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID HE WOULD REPORT OUR REQUEST.

7. FYI: TENTATIVE NAMELIST FOR OFFICIAL DELEGATION INCLUDES:

(A) SENATE:

ROBERT BYRD, MAJORITY WHIP
CLIFFORD P. CASE
RUSSELL B. LONG OR JOHN O. PASTORE
JAMES B. PEARSON
CARL T. CURTIS
JAMES B. ALLEN
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(B) HOUSE:

ROBERT MICHEL, MINORITY WHIP
EDWARD J. DERWINSKI
THOMAS S. FOLEY
JOHN M. SLACK
WAYNE L. HAYS

JOHN B. ANDERSON

TOTAL INCLUDING WASHINGTON ESCORTS WOULD BE 15. IF WE
ARE UNSUCCESSFUL IN PERSUADING MEMBERS NOT TO BRING WIVES,
SOME MEMBERS FROM ABOVE SENATE AND HOUSE LISTS WOULD BE
DROPPED. SISCO

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